NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

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Honda Returns to his Alma Mater in Support of E-mentoring Program

San Jose, CA—Today, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) returned to his old high school campus to support IBM's groundbreaking "E-Mentoring" Program that has helped "C" students become "A" students. IBM's "E-mentoring" program enables high school students to seek career advice and guidance by communicating one-on-one with an IBM employee volunteer who is an expert in their field of study or interest. The results of the program have been dramatic— students, once testing below the 50th percentile in math, are now regularly scoring A's due to E-Mentoring. Congressman Honda, a former high school science teacher, has introduced "NET Corps" legislation that would improve classroom technology by providing tax credits to high-tech companies who become more involved in improving in local schools.

"IBM's E-mentoring program, which we are here to celebrate and learn about today, is a ringing success," said Honda. **"By enabling high school students to seek career advice and guidance by communicating one-on-one with an IBM employee volunteers we have seen test scores rise and young minds given the confidence to excel even beyond their own expectations."**

"It is important to remember programs like E-mentoring are not just philanthropy—it is a critical economic investment in our future—by improving classroom education through technology we sow the seeds of a more capable, more skilled domestic workforce over the long-term," continued Honda.

In the spirit of the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, NET Corps will recruit part-time and full-time volunteers from high-tech companies to provide support and training to school network administrators and teachers in return for tax credits from the federal government. Local school districts will design plans based on their own needs and priorities. Once the plans are approved, NET Corps volunteers will then send volunteers to the schools to assist in implementing the plan, providing technical support to teachers and to school networks.

"The E-Mentoring Program is just the sort of project that NET Corps was designed to support, IBM is to be commended for undertaking it without the benefit of the tax credits my bill would provide," said Honda. **"The Net Corps principle is even more important now that our Valley is experiencing difficult economic times—when times are tight, community involvement programs are often the first to be cut from the budget."**

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